

# CALL OF THE CANYON

EARLY SPRING 2022

## Early Spring Calendar of Events

### Geology Hikes

Walk atop a Navajo sandstone as you learn about the ancient desert landscape that transformed it from sand to rock. Two miles round trip.

**Fri 3/11, 9:00am-10:30am**

**Wed 4/13, 9:00am-10:30am**

### Full Moon Stroll

Explore a whole new side of the park by moonlight, and learn about the nightlife of Snow Canyon.

**Fri 3/18, 8:30pm-10:00pm**

### Star Parties

Gaze at galaxies, nebulae, and stories of the past on this Naturalist-led tour of the cosmos. Blankets are recommended to lay on the sandstone as you take in the universe

**Fri 3/25, 8:30pm-10:00pm**

**Fri 4/01, 8:30pm-10:00pm**

**Fri 4/29, 8:30pm-10:00pm**

### Lava Land

Dive deeper into the geology of Snow Canyon, quite literally! Join park staff as we climb into one of the lava tubes you will find here in the park.

**Fri 4/8, 9:00am-10:30am**

### Moonrise to Sunset Hike

Dusk holds more to discover than the last rays of sunshine. This slim moment between night and day is the rush hour of the desert.

Witness the sunset as the moonrises on this 1.5 mile hike.

**Fri 4/15, 7:00 pm-8:30pm**

### Wildflower Walk

Celebrate Earth day by discovering the color of spring and learn about some of the different wildflowers of the desert.

**Fri 4/22, 9:00am-10:30am**

### Scorpion Hike

Join the Park Naturalist to find the hidden world of one of our more notorious nocturnal residents. Debunk some myths, and get to know your friendly neighborhood arachnids.

**Sat 4/30, 8:30pm-10:00pm**

*All listed events are free and open to the public.*

*Space is limited; registration required.*

***Program registration is held two days preceding the scheduled event.***

*Register by phone or in person. For more information or to register for a program contact park staff at (435) 628-2255.*

# ***BUGS, BATS, & BEYOND***

Signs of Spring are beginning to show in Snow Canyon. With promises of flowers and days spent basking in the glow of warmth that radiates from the red cliff walls, warm weather also brings out the bugs.

Our insect neighbors are essential to the ecosystem of Snow Canyon, and while many of us humans visiting may not enjoy the most numerous residents, the bat residents are excited for the return of the bugs.

Several different species of bats can be found in the canyon. From Pallid Bats scouring the ground with their 14in wingspan to Western Pipistrelle who weigh less than a nickel to the commonly sighted Big Brown Bats snatching beetles from the air.

Bats are highly sensitive to light and temperature. Across the world, there is an ongoing drop in bat populations for several reasons. This includes loss of habitat and roosting sites as well as the issues the brightening night skies pose for hunting and sleeping under cover of darkness.

Bats are also outright killed because of an undue reputation as disease-carrying blood-suckers. Only .01% of wild bats carry the rabies virus, and worldwide, of the 1,300 known species of bats, 3 consume blood, and none are native to North America. Rather, bats play an important role in removing disease-carrying bugs; a single Western Pipistrelle can eat 1,000 mosquitoes per hour. Yet, we still see them in the media as scary creatures of the night.

Snow Canyon is happy to provide a home for numerous bat species. Help welcome these creatures by respecting their space when you find them sleeping, and look for them as a sign of the spring to come.



**A Big Brown Bat.**

Photo courtesy of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

## **Snow Canyon State Park**

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